Crises in Tobacco Market

4427. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting with tobacco traders and exporters was held on march 25, 2000 in New Delhi to find a solution to the crises in the tobacco market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made to explore tobacco market in foreign countries to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commerce Secretary reviewed the crisis caused by the excess supply of tobacco compounded by the unsold stocks held by the traders. The manufacturers, exporters, traders and dealers were prevailed upon to purchase the authorised crop to the extent indicated by them respectively. Measures to cope with the unauthorised crop were also considered.

(c) A delegation of 6 members visited Libya, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria in February, 2000 to promote Indian tobacco exports, Another Indian tobacco trade delegation including STC representatives, visited Russia to explore opportunities for tobacco export. Further a delegation will be visiting countries like China, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan to find new market for export of tabacco.

Large Industrial Units in the Country

†4428. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of large industrial units established till the end of March, 2000 in the country;

(b) the number of units established in private sector out of the said units; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.